

## MEMORANDUM

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**Executive Director**  
CORNEL MARCULESCU

**TO: ALL FINA MEMBER FEDERATIONS**

**FROM: FINA, Lausanne**

**DATE: 07 September 2015**

**RE: INTERPRETATION**

- **FINA RULE SW 4.4 - THE START**
- **FINA RULE SW 9.1 - MEDLEY SWIMMING**

Dear Sirs,

In order to avoid misunderstandings, please refer below to the official FINA TSC interpretation to the following Swimming Rules:

### **SW 4 THE START**

**SW 4.4** Any swimmer starting before the starting signal has been given, shall be disqualified. If the starting signal sounds before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue and the swimmer or swimmers shall be disqualified upon completion of the race. If the disqualification is declared before the starting signal, the signal shall not be given, but the remaining swimmers shall be called back and start again. The Referee repeats the starting procedure beginning with the long whistle (the second one for backstroke) as per SW 2.1.5.

*Interpretation:*

*After all swimmers are "stationery" (SW 4.1), any swimmer who moves before the starting signal may be disqualified when such movement is observed and confirmed by both the starter and referee (SW 2.1.6). When video-tape timing system (FR 4.7.3) is available, it may be used to verify the disqualification.*

## SW 9 MEDLEY SWIMMING

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**SW 9.1** In individual medley events, the swimmer covers the four swimming strokes in the following order: Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle. Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.

*Interpretation:*

*According to SW 9.1 each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance. Being on the back when leaving the wall for the Freestyle portion of the Ind. Medley is covering more than one quarter of the distance in the style of Backstroke and is, therefore, a disqualification. Backstroke swimming is only defined as being on the back.*

This interpretation is based on the following FINA Swimming rules:

### SW 5 FREESTYLE

#### SW 5.1

“except that in individual medley or medley relay events, freestyle means any style other than backstroke, breaststroke or butterfly.”

### SW 6 BACKSTROKE

#### SW 6.1 to SW 6.5

There are no kick or stroke requirements. The swimmer “must push off and swim upon his back throughout the race” “Some part of the swimmer must break the surface of the water throughout the race.” Except for the 15 m at the start and turn.

### SW 7 BREASTSTROKE

#### SW 7.1 to SW 7.6

There are specific stroke and kick requirements.

**President**  
DR. JULIO MAGLIONE  
Uruguay

## SW 8 BUTTERFLY

**First Vice President**  
HUSAIN AL MUSALLAM  
Kuwait

SW 8.1 to SW 8.5

**Honorary Secretary**  
PAOLO BARELLI  
Italy

There are specific stroke and kick requirements.

**Honorary Treasurer**  
PIPAT PANIANGVAIT  
Thailand

## MEDLEY SWIMMING

**Vice Presidents**

SW 9.1 Each of the strokes must cover one quarter (1/4) of the distance.

TAMAS GYARFAS  
Hungary

DENNIS MILLER  
Fiji

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any assistance or additional information you may need.

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South Africa

**Members**

Sincerely,

FERNANDO CARPENA  
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Executive Director

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